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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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East Germany

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Soviet Orders for Rolling Mills at EAW Treptow

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SOURCE:

Twelve rolling mills are to be constructed in 1954 at FAW Treptow for the Russians. The electrical and mechanical parts of the 12 rolling mills have to be finished by the Ernst-Thaelmann-Werk in Magdeburg and several other heavy machine construction plants. The 12 rolling mills include four completely automatic plants, four semiautomatic plants, and four washing rolling mills (mostly aluminum rolling mills).

20. It is generally assumed that cancellation orders will be received from Moscow. It has often been the case that, after the delivery of a certain rolling mill, Russia would cancel the order for the remainder then copy the prototype, "Beesley". It is not possible to produce the 12 mill in one year. Engineers maintain that hitherto no rolling mill delivered by East Germany to Russia is yet in operation. All the electrical controls of the rolling mills are so complicated that mounting the mills in Russia is impossible without expert German engineers. As an example, a "250" completely automatic rolling mill was delivered to Russia about a year ago. It was discovered after the mill had been shipped that the wrong switch plans had accompanied it. The mill could never be operated as it is but to date no inquiry has been received regarding it.

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